NOTES FROM THE:

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Financial Operations

by Mr John J. Nethery

Travel Card. Major changes have recently occurred with the Government Travel Card. In April, there was a major change in the contract between DoD and Bank of America (**BofA**). Some of the new changes are as follows: ATM fees will be $2 or 3%, whichever is greater; a $29 late fee can be assessed on all delinquent accounts after 75 days, currently it's $20 after 120 days; APCs are responsible to deactivate cardholders who charge less than $650 per year; cash and lines of credit will be reduced on standard cards to $259 and $2,500 respectively, restricted cards will be $125 and $1,000 respectively per month (APCs may raise these limits as mission requirements dictate); DoD will establish salary offset procedures for delinquent Individual Billed Accounts (procedures TBD by September 2001); BofA can charge a $20 fee for expedited cards, this fee does not apply to lost or stolen cards; unpaid Centrally Billed Accounts will suspend at 60 days rather than the current 90 day time period; rebates by MAJCOM will be reduced by the amounts charged off in that quarter. For additional details, contact your command travel card representative.

Antideficiency Act Update. A new addition to the SAF/FM home page is the Antideficiency Act (**ADA**) Matters web site. The site's intended audience is Air Force civilian and military personnel who execute Air Force appropriations, including activity groups of the Air Force Working Capital Fund and non-appropriated fund activities. Any individual tasked to perform or assist in an ADA review will also benefit from the information.

The first Air Force Financial Management core competency commits us to exercise fiduciary responsibility. Specifically, we are responsible for insuring that financial laws and regulations are obeyed, something the Air Force must do as a good steward of the public's funds. We must also insure internal controls are in place to protect Government resources. Financial management personnel are committed to providing financial advice and analysis that commanders and managers need to make good financial decisions. This site brings together the key information and resources needed to prevent, identify, and investigate ADA violations while providing guidance in establishing and overseeing the administrative control of funds processes.

Air Force Civilian Competitive Development Program (CCDP) and Defense Leadership and Management Program (DLAMP) Nomination Cycle. On 2 October 2001, a selection board will convene at AFPC to identify high potential civilian employees to participate in these two key leadership development programs. Approximately 104 primary candidates and 68 alternate candidates in grades GS-12 through GS/GM-15 will be selected for the CCDP. Approximately 50-60 candidates consisting of high potential GS-13, GS-14, and GS-15 employees will be selected for DLAMP. DLAMP participants are required to complete a minimum 12-month rotational assignment, senior-level PME, and at least ten graduate-level courses in a broad range of subjects. Information on both programs is available on the www at http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/cp/. Nominations are to be made through your local unit.

Transition Update. SAF/FMP has the stick for briefing and confirmation hearing preparation for the new administration's nominees for SECAF and SAF/FM. This year, a different approach is being used in which all Service Secretary nominees receive each briefing. The idea is to develop a more associated and united Department of Defense. It's hoped this will help the decision process in resource allocation and go-ahead issues. While the SECAF briefing is top-level, the SAF/FM briefing notes the key responsibilities and issues of each SAF/FM directorate. The objective is to educate the new appointees on the functions and concerns of both the Service and the field.

Systems Management-Oversight Structure. SAF/FM has established a management structure for strengthening the oversight over Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Component financial management systems. The systems management oversight structure will oversee the planning, development, implementation, and maintenance of financial systems. It will ensure compliance with the Chief Financial Officers (**CFO**) Act, the Information Technology Management Reform Act (**ITMRA** or Clinger-Cohen), other legal requirements and related direction from higher and/or collateral implementing organizations. It will also ensure that the appro-

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•Capitalize on being 300% manned in Lieutenants

•Bridge O&M and Acquisition disciplines

The plan also fuses the officer's long-range professional development with existing formal and local on-the-job training. By providing a deliberate approach to officer development, our officers move beyond the traditional practice of managing a career within the budget, finance, or cost stovepipes. Ultimately the OIDP seeks to guide our officers toward the right experiences at the right time in their careers.

So in the end, both the wisdom and warning of Aunt Martha's homespun expression becomes clear. Successful officer development requires a plan! It involves taking the diverse assignments beneficial to both the Air Force and to our officers' promotion potential. It involves communicating the excellent opportunities available to our younger officer, as well as those in the middle and at the top. By end of the summer, we plan to launch an OIDP web-based program our officers may use to chart their course. These resources will not only help them navigate the road ahead—but will also prevent them from being an Aunt Martha punchline.

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priate systems become web-enabled and provide access to data and information through the Air Force Portal. The main oversight body will be the reconstituted Executive Oversight Group (**EOG**) which will oversee the systems efforts of FMBMA-S (Gunter), the Air Force Financial Systems Management Office (**AFFSMO**) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and other MAJCOM systems initiatives.

Systems Management-Information Technology Initiatives Working Group (ITIWG). As part of the new CIO structure, there is a "spin-off" Information Technology Initiatives Working Group, which is comprised of functional, SC,and CIO representatives. The ITIWG is currently working issues associated with server consolidation, the Air Force Portal and its associated content, cost and performance benchmarking for IT, IT infrastructure and architecture, and other issues.

One particular topic at the forefront of the ITIWG is server consolidation. The Air Force Chief of Staff directed that all servers must be consolidated, with one test base per MAJCOM by 1 August 2001, and all of the Air Force by 1 September 2002.

The test bases are:

ACC - Langley AFB
AETC - Little Rock AFB
AFMC - Rome NY
ANG - Knoxville ANGB
AFRC - Dobbins AFB
AMC - Charleston AFB
AFSOC - Hurlburt AFB
AFSPC - Peterson AFB
PACAF - Hickam AFB
USAFE - Aviano AB

This consolidation can mean physical (move servers to another location), logical (servers remain in place and are monitored remotely), or a combination of these. There are, of course, many issues that must be worked to make this successful. Some of these issues include equipment, communication, and facility upgrades, equipment and software compatibility, training, manpower, and funding. SAF/FM is supporting this initiative and is asking that MAJCOMs and bases work with SC to help identify potential software, hardware, and data to consolidate. SAF/FM sent guidance (15 March 2001) on standards we will follow, but it basically boils down to two items—educate and negotiate. We must educate people on FMs unique duties and systems, internal controls, customer service, and resource availability, plus negotiate for specific Service Level Agreements (**SLA**) and for resource sharing and allocation. The ITIWG will continue to work the details and direction on how this initiative will progress.